

SECTION 1

INTRODUCTION

In 1992, in the wake of the October 1991 Spokane “Firestorm,” the Washington State Legislature directed the creation of a *Washington State Fire Services Resource Mobilization Plan*, hereinafter referred to as the *Mobilization Plan*. The State Fire Defense Board (now the State Fire Defense Committee of the State Fire Protection Policy Board) was formed with representatives from nine regions across the state to develop and recommend adoption of the *Mobilization Plan* by the state for inclusion in the state Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan (CEMP). This *Mobilization Plan* is an appendix to ESF-4 (Firefighting) of the CEMP.

The first formal adoption and approval of the *Mobilization Plan* was completed in July 1994, only a few days before the major mobilization to Chelan County for the Tyee and Leavenworth Fire Complexes. The *Mobilization Plan* proved effective in meeting the operational and financial demands of the Chelan County mobilization and brought to light deficiencies in the *Mobilization Plan*. To address these deficiencies, the State Fire Defense Board drafted major revisions that were approved and included in the *Mobilization Plan* in 1995. The experience of subsequent mobilizations has resulted in further refinements incorporated in 1999 and in this 2002 revision.

The 2001 wildland fire season was one of the most complex in Washington State history. A record 13 separate mobilization requests were approved – most of them involving multiple fires and all of them involving multiple state and federal agencies. At one point mobilization resources were assigned to eight different state mobilization incidents working simultaneously.

A development that has had a major impact on state fire mobilization incidents in the last couple of years has been the integration of Incident Management Teams (IMTs). The Washington Integrated IMTs are comprised of members from three separate entities: the Department of Natural Resources, the state’s fire service jurisdictions, and the five federal wildland fire fighting agencies (Forest Service, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Bureau of Land Management, Fish and Wildlife Service, National Parks Service). Currently there are five teams with 42-members each, with a pool of alternates. The teams are assigned on a rotating basis and may be called up for any type of all-hazard incident.

A recent development that has significantly improved the state fire mobilization reimbursement process has been the creation of payment teams. The payment teams, tasked to review the incident finance packages immediately following each incident, consist of representatives from the Washington State Patrol (WSP) Fire Protection Bureau, Department of Natural Resources, Washington State Military Department, and the state’s fire service jurisdictions.

The Washington State Military Department, Emergency Management Division, will use this *Mobilization Plan* as the basis to mobilize fire service resources in Washington State to respond to major fires or other disasters. The Adjutant General has the authority to mobilize fire service resources for major fires or other disasters in accordance with Chapter 38.54 of the Revised Code of Washington (RCW), and as such, references to the all hazard implementation of this *Mobilization Plan* are intended to follow the legislative intent expressed in that statute.